

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/614,130

Atty Dkt No.: 46449.00002

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are presently pending in the application. Claims 14 and 15 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 7, and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. (USP 5,641,204) in view of Maruyama (USP 4,718,718). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. in view of Maruyama. Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lhuissier et al. in view of Maruyama, and further in view of Mundell et al. (USP 4,337,931).

However, the Examiner has found Claim 8 allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 has been substantially rewritten into independent form as Claim 13, which has been allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to further define the invention with respect to the main-wire end portion. Further, Claims 14 and 15 have been added.

For the following reasons, the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that neither the individual nor the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references teaches or suggests a seat including a pad assembly having a main portion and side portions, the main portion interposed between the side portions, the side portions including boundary-portion pulling slots wherein boundary-portion insert wires having bent ends are disposed along bottom portions of said boundary-portion pulling slots, and the main portion including a main-

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portion pulling slot disposed substantially perpendicular to the boundary-portion pulling slots; a cover assembly covering a surface of the pad assembly, the cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags pulled into the boundary-portion pulling slots respectively and a main-portion pulling bag pulled into the main-portion pulling slot, wherein boundary-portion end wires having bent ends are inserted into said boundary-portion pulling bags and interlocked with said bent ends of said boundary-portion insert wires respectively; and a main-portion end wire inserted into the main-portion pulling bag, the main-portion end wire having a straight line portion and bent portions positioned at both ends of the straight line portions, and hook portions positioned at both ends of the bent portions, the main-portion end wire being placed into the main-portion pulling slot with the bent opposite end portions linked with the boundary-portion end wires respectively, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, the Applicants respectfully submit that neither the individual nor the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references teaches or suggests a seat including a pad assembly having a plurality of pulling slots extending in directions crossing one another; and a cover assembly having a plurality of pulling bags pulled into said pulling slots correspondingly and respectively so that said cover assembly covers a surface of said pad assembly; wherein at least one insert wire having bent ends is embedded in bottom portions of said pulling slots except at least one pulling slot, while end wires are inserted into all of said pulling bags respectively; and wherein at least one said end wire includes a main-wire end portion, said main-wire end portion having a straight line portion and bent portions positioned at both ends of the straight line portions, and hook portions positioned at both ends of the bent portions; and wherein when said bent portions of said main-wire end portion inserted into said pulling bag are pulled into said at least one

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pulling slot, said bent opposite end portions are linked with said end wires of said pulling bags pulled into said pulling slots other than said at least one pulling slot, and when said main-wire end portion with linked bent opposite end portions is forced into said at least one pulling slot, said pulling bag having said main-wire end portion inserted thereto is pulled into said at least one pulling slot, as recited in amended Claim 10.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the specific structural features of the main-portion end wire of the present invention, which has a straight line portion, bent portions and hook portions (hereafter referred to as "U-shaped"), is not taught or suggested by Lhuissier et al. or Maruyama.

Mundell et al. may disclose wires 22, 26, and 32 as shown in Fig. 2, which is a related structure of a main-portion end wire. However, in view of the following three points, these wires 22, 26, and 32 are completely different from that of the main-portion end wire of the present invention.

Mundell et al. is directed to a spring base which is applied to a bucket sheet (col. 1, lines 2-4). A plurality of the wires 22, 26, 32 in Mundell et al. are required in order to constitute the seat spring (col. 4, lines 1-39). According to the description in Mundell et al., if the intervals of the wires 22, 26, 32 are too large, the "continuity" of the pad support is reduced, and thus, the wires 22, 26, 32 are not able to support the pad. In other words, since the wires 22, 26, 32 are members for supporting the pad, a plurality of the wires are necessarily required in order to support a surface (pad) by lines (wire).

Further, since the wires 22, 26, 32 of Mundell et al. constitute the seat, the wires receive a high load of passengers. Therefore, the wires should have high rigidity. In order to

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receive such a high load, Mundell et al. describe that the wires 22, 26, 32 are spring steel cross wires (col. 3, lines 21-25).

Since the main-portion end wire of the present invention does not need to receive a high load of passengers, many wires are not required, and the high rigidity needed like Mundell et al. is not required.

Finally, Mundell et al. describe the invention is applied to the "bottom" of the seat (col. 1, line 11). That is, since the wires 22, 26, 32 support the pad, the wires are positioned under the pad assembly.

On the contrary, the main-portion end wire of the present invention fixes a main portion of the cover assembly to the pad assembly when the cover assembly is connected to the pad assembly.

Further, the main -portion end wire is positioned between the pad assembly and the cover assembly. That is, the position of the wire is different between the present invention and that of Mundell et al.

For the above reasons, even though the shape of the main-portion end wire may appear related to the wires of 22, 26, 32 of Mundell et al., on the contrary, they are completely different from each other.

Accordingly, if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the Lhuissier et al. and the Mundell et al. references, the U-shaped main-portion end wire would not be obtained. Further, the difficulty involved for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the wire 22, 26, 32 of Mundell et al. to the seat of Lhuissier et al. in order to obtain the seat of the present invention, would lead one to recognize that there would be no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the two references.

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Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious over either the individual nor the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references, and the rejection of Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Further, since Claims 2-9 and new Claim 14 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 11-12 depend from Claim 10, they are also patentably distinguishable over either the individual or the combination of the Lhuissier et al., Maruyama, and Mundell et al. references, for the reasons cited above with respect to Claims 1 and 10.

With respect to new Claim 15, the Applicants respectfully submit that the applied prior art does not teach or suggest a seat including a pad assembly having a main portion and side portions, the main portion interposed between the side portions, the side portions including boundary-portion pulling slots wherein boundary-portion insert wires are disposed along bottom portions of said boundary-portion pulling slots, and the main portion including a main-portion pulling slot disposed substantially perpendicular to the boundary-portion pulling slots; a cover assembly covering a surface of the pad assembly, the cover assembly including boundary-portion pulling bags pulled into the boundary-portion pulling slots respectively and a main-portion pulling bag pulled into the main-portion pulling slot, wherein boundary-portion end wires are inserted into said boundary-portion pulling bags and interlocked with said boundary-portion insert wires respectively; and a main-portion end wire inserted into the main-portion pulling bag, the main-portion end wire having opposite ends bent, the main-portion end wire being placed into the main-portion pulling slot with the bent opposite end portions interlocked with said boundary-portion end wires respectively.

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If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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